

The AP Advocacy Fellowship Program engages exceptional AP teachers who ensure that every student is provided access to opportunity. As part of the program, fellows participate in professional development training that focuses on media communication, government relations, and relevant state and federal legislation.

In this global economy, our economic prosperity depends on our ability to train a high-wage, high-tech workforce able to compete with countries around the world. In order to achieve these goals, we must build an education system that not only works to solve today's problems but also focuses on our nation's long term competitiveness.

It is a privilege to recognize Mr. McKenzie for his demonstrated excellence in education, and I thank him for his commitment to the students of Central Florida.

HONORING THE MANOR CLUB ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, for 100 years The Manor Club in Pelham Manor, has fostered friendship among women in Pelham and its surrounding communities. Originally formed as a men's social club in 1882, The Manor Club has since become a women's club and is now the oldest one in Westchester County.

When new members enter the front door, they are not welcomed by strangers, but by women who will become their friends.

The spirit of friendship is at the core of The Manor Club's mission. The Manor Club has over 300 members from all walks of life, and prides itself as a place where new friendships are formed, and old ones are renewed.

The Manor Club has hosted many famous artists, writers, political leaders and leading experts in their respective fields to present their work at The Manor Club. Many of the Club's programs are open to the public.

The Manor Club is truly a venue for all. I congratulate them on their 100 years of friendship and service in the Pelham Manor community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Manor Club of Pelham Manor for their legacy of camaraderie, and their many contributions to their members and community.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RE- LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4745) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development,

and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to the House FY15 Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill. Today's bill lands with the same sound as its abbreviation . . . THUD.

While I appreciate the hard work of Chairman LATHAM, Ranking Member PASTOR, and their dedicated Appropriations staff, our insufficient 302(b) allocation, made worse with lower than expected FHA and Ginnie Mae receipts, makes this bill's funding levels unacceptable. Simply put, the House bill would make sustaining and improving our nation's infrastructure impossible, a task made more difficult by years and years of deferred maintenance.

On the transportation side, the bill makes deep cuts to the capital programs and job creating infrastructure investments. Amtrak is cut by \$200 million despite record ridership; the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts program is cut by \$252 million, stifling the shovel-ready projects; and the TIGER program is cut by more than 80 percent, despite the program's popularity and success at advancing critical surface transportation projects across the country, with thousands of meritorious proposals still unfunded. And, once again, the bill includes no funding for progress towards a high speed rail system.

Funding for community development and housing safety-net programs is even worse. The bill would cut funding for the HOME program by 30 percent to \$700 million, the lowest level in the program's history. The bill would also limit the ability for our country to maintain and improve our nation's public housing stock by funding the Public Housing Capital Fund below the sequester level and would only provide a paltry \$25 million for the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, the successor program of Hope VI program and our only comprehensive public housing revitalization program.

Additionally, the bill would force public housing agencies to turn needy families away from shelter by significantly underfunding the administrative fees needed to run the housing voucher program, the best hope of thousands of America's poorest families for safe and decent housing.

Another program that provides housing to vulnerable Americans in my district and many others is the Housing for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program. Despite benefiting from an amendment in the Appropriations Committee, the bill before us today would cut HOPWA by more than \$24 million below last year's funding level.

Perhaps the most disappointing and regrettable fact about this bill is that the cuts it imposes could have been avoided, had the Republican leadership understood that we cannot cut our way into fiscal balance. House leaders could reconsider their refusal to talk with the President and work with him to address the real drivers of the deficit—tax expenditures and mandatory spending. Instead, they have again and again slashed critical domestic investments.

We must rid ourselves of unworkable budget caps and sequestration, lifting the drag they represent on our economy and the mockery they make of the appropriations process. The bill before us today is Exhibit A of this travesty, and I urge my colleagues to raise their voices and their votes against it.

REMEMBERING NORTH CAROLINA SENATOR HARRIS BLAKE

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn yesterday of the passing of former North Carolina State Senator Harris Blake. Sen. Blake served the people of Moore, Lee and Harnett Counties with honor and distinction for 10 years before being elected to the position of deputy president pro tempore for his final term in the North Carolina Senate. He was a loyal public servant who served in three different levels of government during his career, including the federal, state and local levels.

Harris was a friend to me during my early years in office, always willing to lend a helping hand or pass along knowledge about the counties we served. He was awarded the Order of the Longleaf Pine by Governor Pat McCrory in 2013—North Carolina's highest honor for those who have gone above and beyond in public service. Sen. Blake was a loving father, an honorable statesman and a trustworthy friend. We were fortunate to have him as a leader of our great state and the voice for Moore, Lee and Harnett Counties.

HONORING ELAINE KATZ

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, communities are built on the strength of its people and its institutions. Riverdale is such a strong community because of the service and dedication of residents like Elaine Katz. Elaine is a quintessential member of the community who should serve as a role model for us all.

The Riverdale community has enjoyed the gift of Elaine's service since she moved there 15 years ago. Her commitment to the Riverdale Temple is particularly noteworthy. Elaine strives to place the needs of others before her own, and often shies away from the spotlight. Instead, she chooses to be a guiding light for others. Her wisdom and foresight have enriched the Riverdale Temple in numerous ways.

Elaine is a member of the Board of Trustees and Assistant Financial Secretary. She's organized many outreach community programs for the Riverdale Temple, and serves as President of the Women of Reform Judaism.

Elaine's service to the community extends beyond the Bronx borders. She currently serves as the Vice President of the Lower Eastside Service Center in Manhattan, a nonprofit organization that assists New Yorkers with mental health and chemical dependency issues. Elaine's commitment to the Lower Eastside Service Center began over 29 years ago.

She is blessed with four loving grandchildren and three children. Elaine was married for 54 years before her husband passed away.

The Riverdale Temple is honoring Elaine Katz at their Student Sponsorship Breakfast. It